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Senate continues to protect Michigan from meth

LANSING – Legislation to protect communities from methamphetamine was passed by the Senate this week, said Sen. Patty Birkholz.

Senate Bills 1112-1117 and 1119 focus on cleaning up meth-sites, protecting children who have been exposed to meth and providing public access to clean-up procedures.

“Our communities are struggling to deal with the meth epidemic so we are providing them new tools to help fight the escalating problems,” said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. “Protecting children is our biggest concern, as they are innocent victims being exposed to this volatile and dangerous drug. These children can face lifelong challenges such as allergies, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. We want to make sure they do not remain in such an unhealthy environment.”

The legislative package will:

- Require the Department of Human Services to partner with local law enforcement when a child has been exposed to meth.
- Require DHS to refer child abuse cases that include a child’s exposure to meth production to the prosecuting attorney.
- Require statewide criteria that every community should follow in order for a home or other meth production site to be considered clean and ready for occupancy.
- Require DEQ to report to the Legislature the nature of environmental contamination materials found during meth lab busts.
- Require a public website listing the location of meth busts and indicating if the location has been cleaned.
- Allow the attorney general to prosecute a person maintaining a website containing instructions for producing meth.

The Senate also approved Senate Resolution 101 memorializing the United States Congress to provide flexible funding to help states and local communities clean up and deal with the disastrous effects of clandestine methamphetamine labs.

“Residents of communities where meth has been found deserve to know that the meth labs were cleaned up and do not pose an environmental health hazard,” Birkholz said. “Providing clean up standards and a website where they can see if a site has been cleaned will alleviate their concerns.”

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Comments from Sen. Birkholz on the meth package are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop.